

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

December 2003

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

COUNTY	Dec 2003*	Dec 2002
UNITED STATES	5.4%	5.7%
MONTANA	5.0%	5.1%
CASCADE**	4.6%	4.6%
MISSOULA**	4.1%	4.4%
YELLOWSTONE**	3.7%	3.6%
BEAVERHEAD	3.4%	5.2%
BIG HORN	13.2%	18.4%
BLAINE	5.7%	6.3%
BROADWATER	5.8%	5.0%
CARBON	4.2%	4.5%
CARTER	1.9%	2.1%
CHOUTEAU	3.5%	3.3%
CUSTER	3.5%	3.9%
DANIELS	2.3%	3.2%
DAWSON	2.7%	1.8%
DEER LODGE	7.3%	7.7%
FALLON	3.4%	3.8%
FERGUS	6.6%	7.1%
FLATHEAD	7.3%	6.1%
GALLATIN	3.3%	3.9%
GARFIELD	3.2%	3.3%
GLACIER	11.9%	11.7%
GOLDEN VALLEY	9.7%	4.8%
GRANITE	7.9%	6.5%
HILL	3.5%	3.8%
JEFFERSON	4.3%	4.5%
JUDITH BASIN	5.4%	5.5%
LAKE	6.7%	7.1%
LEWIS & CLARK	3.9%	4.7%
LIBERTY	3.8%	3.6%
LINCOLN	15.4%	12.2%
MCCONE	3.4%	2.9%
MADISON	4.0%	4.8%
MEAGHER	7.4%	6.5%
MINERAL	8.8%	10.1%
MUSSELSHELL	8.4%	7.8%
PARK	5.6%	5.6%
PETROLEUM	4.0%	5.4%
PHILLIPS	4.8%	5.3%
PONDERA	5.4%	4.2%
POWDER RIVER	4.3%	3.5%
POWELL	6.5%	12.1%
PRAIRIE	6.8%	6.0%
RAVALLI	6.4%	5.8%
RICHLAND	3.6%	4.4%
ROOSEVELT	7.3%	6.9%
ROSEBUD	6.0%	6.8%
SANDERS	8.7%	8.9%
SHERIDAN	5.5%	3.3%
SILVER BOW	5.2%	5.5%
STILLWATER	2.8%	3.4%
SWEET GRASS	2.2%	3.0%
TETON	3.9%	4.5%
TOOLE	2.7%	2.8%
TREASURE	4.3%	6.2%
VALLEY	3.9%	3.1%
WHEATLAND	5.2%	5.7%
WIBAUX	2.9%	2.6%

*December 2003 Rate Preliminary

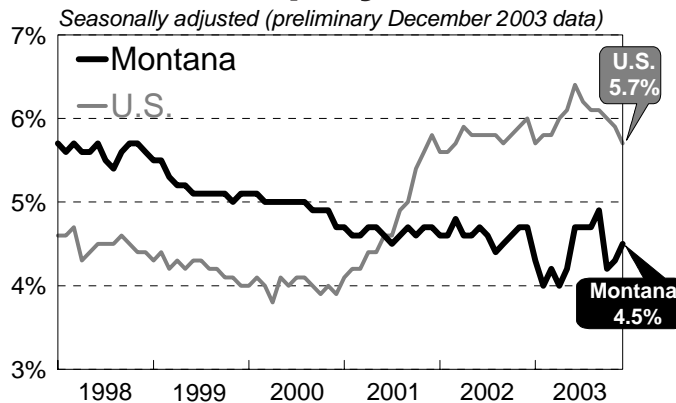
** Cascade = Great Falls MSA

**Missoula = Missoula MSA

**Yellowstone = Billings MSA

DECEMBER 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment



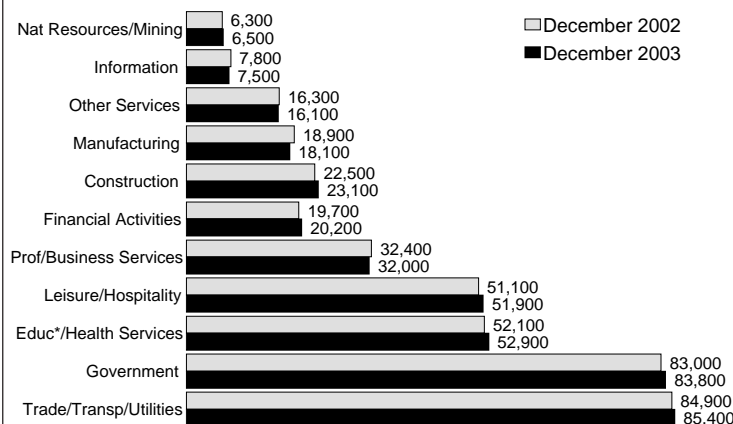
Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate. The state's December unemployment rate of 4.5 percent was 1.2 percentage points lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector nonag production workers were up 2.1 percent over the year for December, outpacing the 1.9 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonag Payroll Employment

Montana Jobs (Seasonally Adjusted)



*Private educational services. (Public education is included in the government sector.)

Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 2,500 jobs (0.6 percent) over the year for December. The largest over-the-year gains were in private education & health services; government; and leisure & hospitality.

CENSUS 2000

Who makes up Montana's current generations?

The Baby Bust Generation (or Generation X) is this month's highlighted generation. This generation includes people born approximately between 1965 and 1976; roughly between the ages of 24 to 35 years old in 2000.

Census 2000 information shows that out of the 902,195 people living in Montana, 120,376 were in the Baby Bust generation, or 13% of Montana's total population. In the Baby Bust generation, 61,917 people were female; 58,459 were male. That makes the Baby Bust generation 51% female and 49% male. "Baby Bust" is defined by *The American Heritage Dictionary* as: "a sudden decline in the birthrate."

The chart below shows the Montana counties with the largest percent of Baby Bust (Generation X) people, 14% and above. Find more Census information at:

<http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us>.

County	Number of Residents	Number of Baby Bust	Percent of Baby Bust
Big Horn	12,671	1,785	14
Cascade	80,357	11,463	14
Gallatin	67,831	11,627	17
Missoula	95,802	15,562	16
Powell	7,180	1,023	14
Yellowstone	129,352	18,955	15

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DISABLED? SEEKING EMPLOYMENT? NEED HELP?

According to the U. S. Census Bureau, about 53 million Americans have a disability. About two-thirds of these individuals have a severe disability. Census Bureau data shows that only about 30 percent of working age adults with severe disabilities are working.

In Montana, getting a job is not easy. Job seekers with disabilities should review the Department of Labor and Industry's handbook, *A Job Hunting Guide for Montanans with Disabilities*. The purpose of this handbook is to answer some frequently asked questions and to highlight programs that may help job seekers with disabilities in their job search process.

This handy guide gives job seekers a quick reference of information needed when seeking employment.

- Be willing to work hard. Attitude is everything.
- Convey confidence and enthusiasm.
- Nervous? Take a deep breath, be polite and let
- Resume writing and tips for completing application forms.

Job seekers learn what transferable skills they have to offer. Different types of work use similar job skills. What are transferable skills?

- Skills that have been learned by doing
- Skills that have been used in the past in one or more jobs
- Skills that may be substituted or interchanged into another job

Sample interview questions include:

- Tell me about yourself.

- Why did you leave your previous job?
- What kind of work are you looking for?

Remember to be very positive about your skills and abilities. Be sure to stress your skills and willingness to acquire additional skills.

Your goal as job seekers is to help the employer feel comfortable with the disability. There are tips and scripts in the handbook, *A Job Hunting Guide for Montanans with Disabilities*. This reference is available for you to download in PDF file format, free of charge, on the Research and Analysis Bureau website:

http://

www.ourfactsyourfuture.org
or **http://mcis.dli.state.mt.us/publications.asp** or call (406) 444-2430

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